



# LINCOLN CHAFEE

## U.S. SENATOR

### RHODE ISLAND

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## **SENATE RETAINS CRITICAL STORMWATER PROVISION IN HIGHWAY BILL**

WASHINGTON, DC – This afternoon, the U.S. Senate endorsed a provision in the Senate Highway Bill (S.732) championed by Senator Lincoln Chafee and Senator John Warner (R-VA). By a vote of 51 – 49, the Senate retained language in the bill that ensures necessary funds are available to lessen the impact of pollution from stormwater runoff. Despite widespread support for the provision from cities and towns across the country, opponents attempted to divert these funds away from pollution control and back to traditional roadway construction.

After completion of the vote today to retain the provision, Senator Chafee stated, “The Warner-Chafee Highway Stormwater Mitigation Program will provide critical new resources to address stormwater runoff associated with our nation’s federal highway system. The program sets aside \$867 million to aid state and local governments in reducing pollution from stormwater runoff from roads and highways. These resources are vital as states and municipalities struggle to come into compliance with the requirements of the Clean Water Act.”

Debate will continue on the Senate Highway Bill for the next several weeks.

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